

Computers I have Known

Personal Computers:

Gateway Inc. is an American [computer hardware](#) company based in [South Dakota](#) and later [California](#), that developed, manufactured, supported, and marketed a wide range of [personal computers](#), [computer monitors](#), [servers](#), and computer accessories. It became a well-known brand in 1991 when it started shipping its computer hardware in [piebald](#) boxes and for its creative advertising in [Computer Shopper](#) and other magazines.

Gateway was founded on September 5, 1985, on a farm outside [Sioux City, Iowa](#), by [Ted Waitt](#) and Mike Hammond.^[2] Originally called **Gateway 2000**, it was one of the first widely successful [direct-sales](#) PC companies, utilizing a sales model copied from [Dell](#), and playing up its Iowa roots with low-tech advertisements proclaiming "Computers from Iowa?" Gateway built brand recognition in part by shipping computers in spotted boxes patterned after [Holstein cow](#) markings. In 1989, Gateway moved its corporate offices and production facilities to [North Sioux City, South Dakota](#).

Gateway became a leading manufacturer of personal computers and was a pioneer in developing and engineering several products that continued to move [Windows](#)-based computing forward throughout its history. In the early nineties, Gateway 2000 introduced one of the first practical portable computers, the Nomad.

Throughout its history, Gateway attempted to move the stodgy [IBM PC](#) model in more home-/consumer-friendly machines. Gateway was the first major manufacturer to offer a suite of family-friendly^[clarification needed] software as an alternative to [Microsoft Office](#), the first to include optical drives as standard equipment on all of its machines, and the first to include high-end^[clarification needed] speakers with the purchase of a sound card (like the Boston Acoustics Digital BA735). Through its innovative case design, Gateway was able to reduce the need for high-wattage power supplies and fans, allowing their machines to run cooler and quieter.

Superbrain: I made \$3400 for my Superbrain desktop computer in about 1995.

The Superbrain was an integrated system with keyboard, display and disc drives. The system used two Z80A microprocessors at 4 MHz, one for the main processing, and the other for peripheral activities.

The dual 5" floppy disc units could be 2x170 KB (single side), 2x340 KB (DS), and a 10 MB CompuStar hard disk could be added.

The SuperBrain was sold with the CP/M operating system, Microsoft Basic, an 8080 assembler and Microsoft Cobol 74.

The SuperBrain II appeared in 1982. It offered a faster and enhanced disk operating

system, new video visual attributes and better graphics capabilities. The SuperBrain and SuperBrain II were 5¼ floppy disk based CP/M machines.

The **Intertec Superbrain** was an all-in-one commercial [microcomputer](#) first sold by Intertec Data Systems Corp. in 1979. The machine ran the operating system [CP/M](#) and was somewhat unusual in that it used dual [Z80](#) CPUs, the second being used as a disk controller. In 1983, the basic machine sold for about \$2000.

There were several variants, including the Superbrain II, Superbrain II Jr., "QD" (quad density disk drives) and "SD" (super density) models.

The Superbrain is notable for being at the user end of the first [Kermit](#) connection in 1981.

The machine was practical and useful in the office environment, but somewhat limiting until the arrival of the first 5MB hard disks in one of the floppy drive bays. This was soon replaced by the 10MB Winchester thus effectively removing all limitations on what could be programmed and stored.

Commodore 64: (David's computer) Commodore C-64

The Commodore 64, along with the [Apple II](#) and the Atari XL computers, is the most famous home computer. According to the 2001 edition of Guinness book of records, the C-64 was the most "prolific computing device ever manufactured". During its production run from 1982 to 1993, about 30 million units were sold. To put this number in perspective, that's more than all the Macintoshes in the world.